

Linn County Soil & Water Conservation District Needs Assessment

This needs assessment has been prepared by the Linn County Board of Supervisor's as a way to express the District's need for cost-share funding for the upcoming fiscal years. The first section identifies the farm demographics which include the number and size of the farms with further breakdown based on farms having livestock or harvested crops with the information being obtained from the 2007 census and University of Missouri Cares program.

The number of farms in the county is 1077 and comprised of 397,025 acres. Average farm size is 306 acres. The size break down is as follows:

1-9 acre farm	43
10-49 acre farm	181
50-69 acre farm	51
70-99 acre farm	121
100-139 acre farm	106
140-179 acre farm	97
180-219 acre farm	56
220-259 acre farm	65
260-499 acre farm	185
500-999 acre farm	104
1000-1999 acre farm	50
2000 or more acre farm	18

Total cropland acres = 103,288.18
Total grassland acres = 199,871.38
Total Forest acres = 54,896.40
Total Wetland acres = 21,079.70
Total Urban acres = 12,382.51
Total Water acres = 5,744.01

Farm Breakdown Numbers by Livestock

Cows and or Calves – 499
Milk Cows – 14
Hogs and Pigs – 24
Sheep and Lambs – 28
Horses and Ponies – 149
Poultry – 36

Farm Breakdown Numbers by Harvested Crops

Corn for Grain – 150
Sorghum – 11
Wheat – 88
Popcorn – 1
Hay or Haylage – 548
Soybeans – 242
Oats – 24
Orchards – 2

Streams

<u>Stream Name</u>	<u>Stream Length (Miles)</u>
Badger Creek	6.81
Bear Branch	10.87
Bear Creek	11.89
Big Turkey Creek	6.54
Brushy Branch	3.25
Bull Branch	5.07
Center Branch	1.24
Clarks Creek	6.57
Clear Creek	2.19
Coal Creek	3.09
Coon Creek	13.45
Couch Branch	4.21
East Yellow Creek	29.99
Elk Creek	14.03
Halls Branch	0.13
Hamilton Branch	7.49
Hickory Branch	10.78
Kemper Branch	6.36
Lewis Creek	9.10
Lick Branch	3.47
Linn Branch	4.46
Little Muddy Creek	6.92
Little Parson Creek	7.51
Little Turkey Creek	12.25
Locust Branch	4.04
Locust Creek	31.59
Long Branch	30.23
Lousy Creek	6.52
Lowes Branch	5.89
Mairs Branch	4.25
Muddy Creek	21.75
Mussel Fork	5.45
New Boston Branch	2.69
Onion Branch	4.47
Painter Creek	2.99
Parson Creek	34.10
Patterson Branch	1.87
Pin Oak Branch	3.70
Plumb Branch	3.05
Sam Branch	2.70
Sights Branch	9.72
Smoky Creek	12.43
Spring Branch	4.05
Strawberry Branch	5.85
Turkey Creek	25.02
Unnamed	1,492.61
Van Dorsen Creek	9.69
West Locust Creek	5.85
West Yellow Creek	31.69
Winigan Creek	14.45
Wolf Branch	7.07
Total	1,971.39

Land Slope

<u>slope category</u>	<u>acres</u>	<u>percent</u>
0-3%	125,710	31.64%
3-6%	110,562	27.83%
6-10%	93,737	23.60%
10-15%	50,153	12.62%
> 15%	17,112	4.31%

County Resource Concerns

FY12

The Linn County Board of Supervisors and employees have determined what resource concerns need to be addressed in our county. To make this determination we reviewed the Missouri County Profile map on the CARES website to determine land use as well as the census data. We also reviewed current and previous requests made by landowners for cost share practices as well as increase/decrease trends over the past years to help in our determination. At this time, we believe that our county has a need for 4 of the 11 resource concerns.

1. Sheet and Rill Erosion

The Linn County SWCD has reviewed the requests for sheet and rill erosion practices in order to determine the current need for these practices. Because the District did not hold a new sign up for fiscal year 2012, we are using numbers obtained from the sign up held for fiscal year 2011. We believe this is still an accurate accounting of the need in our county.

We had requests for DSL-44 practices serving approximately 540 acres for soil erosion control. These 540 acres would take an estimated \$486,000 cost share dollars to fund. This dollar figure is based on the \$900/acre average obtained from fiscal year 2010 actual cost share figures for DSL-44 practices.

In determining the need for future years in sheet and rill erosion, the possibility of an increase in the county maximums for DSL-44 practices was taken into account. A new county maximum of \$16,000 was used to estimate figures for FY13, FY14, FY15 and FY16.

2. Gully Erosion

The Linn County SWCD has reviewed the requests for gully erosion practices in order to determine the current need for these practices. Because the District did not hold a new sign up for fiscal year 2012, we are using numbers obtained from the sign up held for fiscal year 2011. We believe this is still an accurate accounting of the need in our county.

The District had requests for 35 practices to control gully erosion. These 35 practices would take approximately \$315,000 to fund.

We are projecting that the need for these practices will remain steady over the next several years based on the review of requests from previous years.

3. Grazing Management

After reviewing the requests from the sign up held for fiscal year 2011, the Board of Supervisors is requesting \$11,900 for grazing management practices for fiscal year 2012. We are projecting the need for additional funds in future years to complete the grazing system requirements.

4. Nutrient & Pest Management

The District is requesting \$30,000 in Nutrient & Pest Management for fiscal year 2012. The Board believes that if the District can receive funding for this resource concern that there will be landowners interested in utilizing these practices. This will be the first year the District has requested funding under this resource concern.

Advance Cost Share Allocation

The Linn County Board of Supervisors is very happy with the implementation of the advanced cost share allocation process in fiscal year 2011. Linn County was able to implement 4 practices that would have in previous years been pushed back to the fall.

We would like to ask the Commission to consider increasing the amount of the advanced funding to allow more landowners to get practices on the ground before planting starts for the year. This could help avoid some weather issues that tend to come up late in the fall after crops are out.